

Gormau, Sir George

Jan. 1917

(19)

Convocation for conferring of degree of LL.D.

upon Sir George Carneau, January 8th, 1917

This occasion is one of much significance. To-day we are having the pleasure of a visit from fellow Canadians of the Province of Quebec who are returning a similar visit made in the month of October by gentlemen from Ontario to several of the cities of our sister province. The purpose of this interchange of courtesies is to increase mutual respect by friendly intercourse and "to establish a firm conviction in the innate fair-mindedness of the vast majority of both races." The people of these provinces are Canadians bound together indissolubly in one great Dominion, but we are of different origin, those from Quebec having the traditions of one of the most magnificent races of Western
(civilisation)

civilisation, we of Ontario and the other provinces drawing our inspiration and character from the other great source of Western civilisation, the British people.

In this the day of our terrible and critical struggle these two ancient races - the French and the British - stand side by side in the defence of a civilisation to which for over a thousand years both have contributed the richest gifts. United they are determined that liberty of small peoples, righteousness among the nations and civilisation based upon a recognition of international law shall not, at least until their last ounce of strength is
(exhausted)

exhausted, perish from the earth. The validity of the spiritual basis of civilisation has been challenged and the idealism and conscience of Britain and France are awake to affirm once again in tones ^{which} ~~that~~ the world may never forget that the foundations of human society rest upon the eternal verities.

In her desire to have a share in the honour of maintaining the old standards of international society Canada has eagerly made great sacrifices, and in these a new hope for the future will be created. We know that the people of Quebec do not live for bread alone and that their heart is not set on riches, but that they are moved by impulses that depend upon their conviction as to the reality

of the things of the spirit. In this war they and we can share a common conviction because it is for the defence of the sacred foundations of society that we have thrown ourselves into it. As the allies have been unified by a common purpose, as the discords of Britain have been lost in the higher ^{concord} ~~unity~~ of national service, so we believe that a common sacrifice for a noble ideal on the part of all sections of Canada will still the gusts of misunderstanding and confusion which at times ruffle the surface of our Dominion.

We therefore welcome Sir George Carneau and his friends

from Quebec because they come to assure us that they too believe that we Canadians shall be united in this common service and sacrifice and because he has proved his faith by the splendid gift of his two sons ~~to this war.~~ *who is now at the front.*

January 15th, 1917

Sir George Garneau, LL.D.,

Quebec.

Dear Sir George:

We look back with great pleasure to last Monday when you and your friends were with us. I know that the impression that you created was excellent, and I am confident that the visit would do a great deal to strengthen the ties of good-will between these two great sections of the Dominion.

On every hand I have heard expressions of admiration for the way in which you spoke on the various occasions in which you appeared in public last Monday. I know that the general opinion is that our Convocation was a success and that it was a pleasure to the University to give you this degree.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

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January 22nd, 1917

Sir George Carneau, LL.D.,

Quetec.

My dear Sir George:

I have this morning received your letter containing the very generous offer on the part of the delegates of the "Fonne Entente" to present \$1000 to the University of Toronto, the yearly revenue of which is to be devoted to a prize to be known as "The Quetec Fonne Entente Prize".

It will give me great pleasure to present your offer to the Board of Governors which meets next Thursday, and I am sure that they will accept it with such gratitude.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

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January 26th, 1917

Sir George Garneau, LL.D.,

Quebec.

My dear Sir George:

I am glad to be able to inform you that yesterday afternoon at a meeting of the Board the generous offer of the Bonne Entente of Quebec to establish a prize in the University was cordially and gratefully accepted by the Board. They will gladly undertake to institute a "Quebec Bonne Entente Prize" from the proceeds of the fund. I will communicate with you later as to the proposition which we may have with regard to the first announcement of the Prize.

The Governors are gratified that the privilege we had in the University of showing some honour to the writers of the Entente, and in particular to yourself, has been appreciated by you in such a handsome way.

Yours sincerely,

President.